

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 SAJ-01 EB-11 COME-00 IO-14

TRSE-00 DRC-01 /160 W

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R 281810Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9496

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 7517

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, EIFN, NATO, BE

SUBJECT: BURDENSHARING

REF: A. STATE 248790. B. BRUSSELS 6856.

C. BRUSSELS 7395.

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1. IN A CALL ON NOTERDAEME, CHEF DE CABINET OF

FOREIGN MINISTER, I EXPLAINED TO HIM THAT SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S REMARKS TO DPC ON THE IMPORTANCE OF FORCE IMPROVEMENTS SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS ALTERING IN ANY WAY THE NEED TO MEET THE IMMEDIATE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS REQUIREMENTS OF JACKSON-NUNN LEGISLATION. NOTERDAEME HAD NO DIFFICULTY UNDERSTANDING AND ACCEPTING THE EXPLANATION. HE REITERATED BELGIAN INTENTION TO DO MORE IN BURDENSHARING BILATERALLY IF MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT COULD NOT BE OBTAINED. WHEN I STRESSED THE DESIRABILITY OF CONCENTRATING ON THE UNITED STATES MULTILATERAL PROPOSAL IN NATO, HE REMARKED THAT A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT COUNTRIES WOULD NOT BE PARTICIPATING IN THE MULTILATERAL APPROACH: E.G. GERMANY, WHICH NEGOTIATES OFFSETS BILATERALLY, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND FRANCE. WHILE BELGIUM DID NOT RULE OUT PARTICIPATION IN A MULTILATERAL SYSTEM, IF THAT COULD BE MOUNTED, HE BELIEVED ITS ANNOUNCED WILLINGNESS TO PROCEED BILATERALLY SHOULD PROVE HELPFUL IN STIMULATING ACTION BY OTHERS. BELGIUM SAW A DANGER OF A SITUATION ARISING IN NATO IN WHICH EACH COUNTRY HANGS BACK WAITING TO SEE WHETHER OTHERS ARE WILLING TO PROCEED.

2. WHEN IT WAS MENTIONED THAT FORCE IMPROVEMENTS COULD CONTRIBUTE TO BALANCE OF PAYMENTS REQUIREMENTS OF JACKSON-NUNN AMENDMENT IF THEY TOOK THE FORM OF PROCUREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES, NOTERDAEME STATED THAT BELGIUM WAS THINKING IN TERMS BOTH OF INCREASED PROCUREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES AND OF A GREATER CONTRIBUTION TO NATO INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING. HE ASSERTED THAT POSSIBILITIES FOR INCREASED DEFENSE SPENDING EXISTED IN BOTH CATEGORIES UNDER EARLIER AUTHORIZATIONS BY THE BELGIAN PARLIAMENT.

3. NOTERDAEME AGAIN ADVERTED TO THE DESIRABILITY OF EXPERT DISCUSSIONS OF THE MANNER OF CALCULATING THE UNITED STATES MILITARY BALANCE OF PAYMENTS UNDER THE JACKSON-NUNN PROVISIONS. I TOLD HIM THAT BELGIAN VIEWS ON THIS POINT HAD BEEN COMMUNICATED TO WASHINGTON. ALTHOUGH THE JACKSON-NUNN AMENDMENT REQUIRED A US DETER-
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MINATION OF THE US MILITARY BOP, I SAID THAT THIS DID NOT APPEAR TO ME TO RULE OUT EXPERT DISCUSSIONS, EITHER MULTILATERAL OR BILATERAL, OF THE METHODOLOGY TO BE USED IN REACHING SUCH A DETERMINATION. (BRUSSELS 6856)

4. EMBASSY WILL ALSO BE FOLLOWING UP WITH OTHERS IN FOREIGN MINISTRY AND DEFENSE MINISTRY TO WARD OFF ANY CONFUSION RE JACKSON-NUNN REQUIREMENTS. BOOCHEVER

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